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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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PIPE JC88
DEC 23 2003
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Utility Application

Inventors: Shek Fai Lau et al.
Appln. No.: 09/924,624
Confirm. No.: 5227
Filed: August 8, 2001
Title: Electrode Self-Cleaning Mechanism for Electro-Kinetic
Air Transporter-Conditioner Devices

PATENT APPLICATION

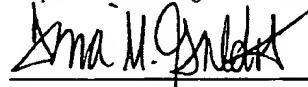
Art Unit: 1711
Examiner: Thao T. Tran

Customer No. 23910

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UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.10

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(Signature)
Tina M. Galdos
Signature Date: December 23, 2003

REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.114

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicants hereby request continued examination (RCE) of the above-identified utility patent application. The subject patent application was filed on or after June 8, 1995 and this paper is being filed prior to the payment of the issue fee, unless a petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.313 is granted; (2) abandonment of the application; or (3) the filing of a notice of appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit under 35 U.S.C. 141, or the commencement of a civil action under 35 U.S.C. 145 or 146, unless the appeal or civil action is terminated. 37 C.F.R. §1.114(a).

Specifically, this RCE is being filed so that the second Information Disclosure Statement (IDS), originally filed on October 8, 2002, and later re-filed on October 10, 2003, will be considered by the Examiner. Applicants have enclosed herewith a copy of the second IDS, along with date stamped post cards evidencing its original submission on October 8, 2002, and its re-submission on October 10, 2003.

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Attorney Docket No.: SHPR-01041US4
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A Notice of Allowance was issued by the USPTO on September 23, 2003. After receiving the Notice of Allowance, Applicants' representative repeatedly contacted the Examiner in an attempt to get the Examiner to consider the references listed in the second IDS. However, the Examiner informed Applicants' representative that the file was unavailable, and thus, that there was nothing that could be done. Because Applicants do not want a patent to issue without the references in the second IDS being considered by the Examiner, Applicants are filing this RCE to ensure that the patent does not go abandoned (and to give the Examiner an opportunity to initial the forms 1449, indicating consideration of the references in the second IDS). Nevertheless, Applicants respectfully submit that they should not have had to file this RCE (nor pay the accompanying fee), because it was the USPTO that had lost the previous two submissions of the second IDS.

Transmitted with this communication are the following:

☒ Re-submission of second IDS and its accompanying documents, evidencing its two previous submissions.

The fee associated with this communication has been calculated as shown below:

☒ A fee of \$770.00 is being paid pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e) for the filing of this Request for Continued Examination.

☒ Please charge Deposit Account No. 06-1325 in the amount of \$770.00. A duplicate copy of this authorization is enclosed.

☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325. A duplicate copy of this authorization is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 12/23/03

By: Jeffrey R. Kurin
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